

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A system comprising:
  - a plurality of clients, each said client comprising a plurality of user interface classes and at least one class that provides access to a database;
  - a server comprising a plurality of servlets, at least some of said servlets providing at least one of a database and server access capability to each said client; and
  - said database comprising a plurality of tables, at least one of said tables comprising at least one error proofing example and meta-data defined by a user when creating an error proofing example, said database accessed by each said client via said server.
2. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein each said user interface classes comprise at least two visual components for controlling information shown to a user and for handling user input.
3. A system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein one of said user interface classes constructs and displays a menu of web pages that a user can view.
4. A system in accordance with Claim 2 wherein one of said user interface classes initializes and displays forms.
5. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said class that provides access to said database formats SQL statements and invokes requests to servlets in said server that provide database access.
6. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said server comprises servlets for database queries and updating, uploading a document and updating said database, downloading a document, and extracting user permissions from said database.

7. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein one of said tables stores processes to which an error proofing example applies and failure modes associated with an error proofing example.

5 8. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein one of said tables stores part families to which an error proofing example applies.

9. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein one of said tables stores a solution stage to which a solution of an error proofing example applies.

10 10. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein one of said tables stores data identifying users of the error proofing website.

11. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein one of said tables stores textual data relating to the error proofing example.

12. A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein one of said tables stores a principle and related strategy that are associated with an error proofing example.

15 13. A method for identifying an error proofing technique for a given application using a web-based system, the system including a plurality of clients including a plurality of user interface classes, a server including a plurality of servlets, and a database including a plurality of tables including at least one example of an error proofing technique and user defined meta-data, said method comprising the steps of:  
20 of:

using at least one interface class to provide access to a database;  
using at least some of the servlets to provide at least one of database and server access capability to a client;  
accessing a table containing an error proofing example; and  
25 choosing an error proofing technique to fit the given application.

14. A method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said step of using at least one interface class to provide access to a database further comprises the step of

providing at least two visual components for controlling information shown to a user and for handling user input.

15. A method in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said step of providing at least two visual components for controlling information shown to a user and for handling user input further comprises the step of constructing and displaying a menu of web pages that a user can view.

16. A method in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said step of providing at least two visual components for controlling information shown to a user and for handling user input further comprises the step of initializing and displaying forms.

17. A method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said step of using at least some of the servlets to provide at least one of database and server access capability to a client further comprises the steps of:

providing access to database formats SQL statements; and  
invoking requests to servlets in the server that provides database access.

18. A method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said step of using at least some of the servlets to provide at least one of database and server access capability to a client further comprises the steps of:

querying the database;  
uploading a document and updating the database; and  
downloading a document and extracting user permissions from the database.

19. A method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said step of accessing a table containing an error proofing example further comprises the steps of:  
storing processes in the table to which an error proofing example applies.

20. A method in accordance with Claim 13 wherein said step of  
accessing a table containing an error proofing example further comprises the steps of:  
storing failure modes in the table associated with an error proofing  
example;  
5 storing part families in the table to which an error proofing example  
applies;  
storing a solution stage in the table to which a solution of an error  
proofing example applies;  
storing data identifying users of the error proofing website in the table;  
10 storing textual data relating to the error proofing example in the table;  
and  
storing a principle and related strategy that are associated with an error  
proofing example in the table.

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